

The Odyssey by Homer (700 BC)

This classic novel is based on victory over troubles.

After 10 yrs, Odysseus & his men from Ithaca, Greece, were victorious in Troy [wooden horse]. But while returning, they asked the giant Cyclops for food. The giant started eating his men so Odysseus got him drunk, poked his eye out & made their escape. Poseidon [earth shaking god & father of the Cyclops] took revenge & destroyed their ships & men [only Odysseus survived]. It took Odysseus another 10 yrs to return home while worthless suitors were eating his food at home & plotted to kill his son.

Odysseus was a castaway on an island & became captive to nymph goddess Calypso. He cried & prayed to his gods daily. Athene [daughter of Zues] had compassion on him & got permission from Zues in Olympus to send Hermes [speedy runner/messenger] to Calypso to set him free. He built a raft & was on his way. Poseidon destroyed that raft & went through hell, but Athene safely got Odysseus washed ashore at Phaecia. Athene put thoughts in men's mind [muse] to help Odysseus get home. They gave him gifts for a king & sailed him home.

When Odysseus arrived back in Ithaca, he disguised himself [with the help of Athene] as a beggar to find out who was faithful & who was corrupt. The worthless suitors were mean to the beggar. Odysseus' wife, Penelope, prayed to Artemis [daughter of Zeus] for help. She told the suitors she would marry the one that could shoot an arrow from Odysseus' bow through 12 marks, but none could even pull the string back. Odysseus hit the mark. Athene transformed him back and with the help of his son, 2 faithful servants & Athene they slew all of the suitors.

Quotes: "...for the courageous man in all affairs better attains his end..." (Homer)